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Phuket Rising

High season is here again and despite what some people say we are finding it very busy. Whether visitors are spending money at certain establishments is another question, but here they certainly are and that is a good thing.

Guesthouses are reporting brisk trade and many are full well into February. The larger hotels are not quite as busy but then some of the pricing structures are getting a little on the high side. There are quite a few guesthouses around at the moment that have what we would regard as superior rooms than a lot of the hotels at a fraction of the cost.

The tsunami memorial services held over the new year were well organised and put together considering the amount of people who attended. The large media turnout upset some people but for those who were involved in it last year but could not make it back here, they were glued to their TV's wanting to know what was going on.

Balancing everyone's needs while respecting people's grief is a real high-wire act, getting it right can be tricky at times.

Another couple of friends left our shores this past month, permanently.

Danny passed away in early January at a far too young age of 51. One of the good guys, his clever sense of humour and dry wit will be missed.

Even more recently, Gary from the Leek & Thistle Bar in Kamala passed away suddenly. On our rounds here the Leek & Thistle would always be made the last stop due to Gary's insistence on staying for an ale or two and regaling you with his fishing stories. RIP.

We have mentioned this at the end too, but having seen the latest aerial shots taken of Patong recently, we eagerly await for them to be turned into a giant poster. But more on that next issue.

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